

My name is Jack Laakso. I'm here with Friends of Coal. I'm also a retired coal miner. So one of the things I thought about when we started talking about this, about coming here is what part of this can I present that is a little bit different? When you start talking about raising royalty rates on coal, you're talking about increasing the electricity rates. You get to the point where somebody like me, now that I'm retired on a fixed income, you're going to have start deciding on a monthly basis, "Do I get my medicine? Do I get my food? Or do I pay my electric bill? Which is it going to be?" It's incumbent upon us, incumbent upon BLM to ensure that that doesn't happen. No one in the United States should ever have to make that decision. Nobody. I want to address some of the reclamation facts. I know it was brought up some of the reclamation facts, which are still facts by the way. I've been involved in mining. I've been in reclamation planning. I've been involved in supervising reclamation crews. I'm going to tell you that percent that they talked about is in error. That might be the actual final reclamation, but you got a lot of land under your facilities under railroads, under haul roads, under office buildings, under silos -- that stuff doesn't get reclaimed till the end. Then there's various stages of reclamation. Did they talk about that? I didn't hear it. I didn't hear it. And I am an outdoorsman. I've been here for 30-plus years. I am an outdoorsman. I love to hunt; I love to fish. I guarantee you if you want to see some of the largest mule deer and some of the largest elk, you go to some of reclaimed areas on the mine sites. (Applause.) That's where you see it. That's where you see it. But as far as the fishing in the Northwest, you know, I understand where you're coming from, but I guarantee you, if we don't haul our coal to China to burn, they're going to burn noncompliance coal. We ain't telling China what to do. (Applause.) They're going to burn whatever the hell coal they want to burn. (Applause.) The United States isn't going to tell China what to do. So all that acid rain BS, you know, all that stuff, it's going to come from China. It's not going to come from us. They've been around for a week. We have compliance coal. We have compliance coal. That ain't happening there. Then you talk about climate change. Hell, where I grew up, even where I live now, there's climate change four times a year. We've got winter, spring, summer, and fall. This talk about climate change is not an

absolute science that unequivocally, unequivocally says that there is climate change. Nothing. Because every article I've read, there's been a comp for every article, and I've done my research. I'm going to say one last thing. Let me tell you something. This group of people up here, they're a bunch of coal miners. They're proud coal miners. And at two o'clock in the morning when they're loading the trains to go someplace to provide electricity for somebody to sleep in a warm bed and it's 20 below, 60 mile per hour winds, those people are at it. Those are the people doing it.